

Report about Socotra – Yemen

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April 2015

Introduction

This report prepared upon a mission conducted last year and more information, under the partnership agreement ¹between IUCN and ARC-WH to develop and implement TABE'A Programme for Natural World Heritage in Arab Region. This agreement includes integral part to support conservation and management measures of Socotra's OUV. And anonymous source of information of IUCN.

 [Yemen](#)

N12 30 0 E53 49 60

Date of Inscription: 2008

Criteria: [\(x\)](#)

Property: 410,460 ha

Buffer zone: 1,740,958 ha

Ref: 1263

It aimed to identify potential interventions or projects that would understanding of World Heritage site's benefits, in line with nature conservation objectives.

Outputs:

There were several meetings happened with different stakeholders in Socotra as following:

1. Meeting with Dr. Omar Al Saghir (Small Grant programme- UNDP Yemen) main conservation issues:
 - a. How to manage and deal with tourism development and its activities in addition to the infrastructure development in light of natural sensitivity that Socotra has.
 - b. How to measure the management effectiveness and its response to these activities to minimize its impacts.
 - a. Need to adopt grazing system that response to the need of local community for grazing, and the need to manage this activity and minimize the impact of overgrazing. (Socotra people depend on free grazing style no the systematic grazing style).
2. Meeting with local people of Shoubihoun

This area located in a very strategic spot as it's the access point for 70% of Socotra visitors and 80% of visitors want to visit the Dragon Blood forest, Irrihour water pool, and/ or view point of the canyon.

 - a. A local family established a nursery with the Czech Republic project for endemic trees conservation.
 - b. Endemic plants nursery is also open for visitors.
3. Halmi (Noujid area)- South of Socotra (population of Halmi is 373 persons)
 - a. Local people mainly work in fishing and some grazing, and there is almost no other source of income.
 - b. Fishing season this year didn't cover the need of these families when consider number of fish and size of.
4. Local supplier of medicinal plants (Al Jazlawi)

¹ Partnership agreement for 2 years 2014-2016

- a. Medicinal plants have a great market in Gulf countries.
 - b. Al Jazlawi supplies the Aloe (pith of the endemic Aloe), Dragon Blood trees gist, Frankincense, Honey, and Socotri Siwaak etc.
 - c. There is a need to bring new techniques that would enhance packaging, production, and labelling, marketing, and even extraction of materials.
 - d. Capacity building for his suppliers (Bedouins), on sustainable techniques of collecting and/or harvesting.
 - e. Capacity building on institutional management,
5. UNDP Socotra
- a. The project of UNDP is working on:
 - i. Capacity building of local government and institutional development
 - ii. Capacity building of local NGOs on administrative, financial and technical management.
 - iii. Capacity building on proposal writing
 - iv. Scale up local initiatives and projects to widen its benefits.
6. EPA – and the local coordinator of SENCKENBERG project
- a. No implementation yet of the strategy developed through TABE'A programme.
 - b. There is a need for capacity building on development of action plans and its implementation.
 - c. Tourism activities in marine protected areas (MPAs) is creating a pressure on fish biomass, tourism service providers do fishing inside the marine protected areas to offer food for their tourists.
 - d. There is a need to reassess all local income generating projects inside the MPAs.
 - e. There is a process of developing database of all fishermen of Socotra.
 - f. Need to develop guidelines and policies for fishing activities that integrate all stakeholders and government.
 - g. Fishing techniques and its impacts need to be assessed.
7. Governor deputy- Mr. Fahid Saleem
- a. Governorate vision is to develop a model that integrate nature conservation with development.
 - b. The governorate is developing income generating and investment projects in line with nature conservation measures and procedures.
 - c. Priority for the infrastructure development and services sector in Socotra. (Health, education, nutrition, and electricity).
 - d. All constructions on coastal area are banned or stopped, in addition to, no constructions would be allowed within less than 150 m away from the coast line.
 - e. There is a need to raise awareness of investors and local people.
8. Visit to Charcoal workshop

The visit were to identify size of this activity and collect some information. EPA informed us that it is closed by when we visit the place we found a worker is stilling working there.

Local people at the moment still have their sustainable technique of collecting and selling wood, they only collect the dead and dry wood and put them at the side of the road to be collected by investor as the following pictures (picture 2 and 3).



Picture 1 Collecting different type of trees



Picture 2 Local people leaves the collected wood by the side of the road

Local people mainly targeting the Croton (*Croton socotranus*) see picture4 for collecting wood for using as source of energy. It is commonest tree is Socotra and IUCN RedList assessment is Least Concern ver3.1 (<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/summary/30421/0>). The main villages collect these trees as Deksam and Aaifhet.



Picture 3 forest of Croton (*Croton socotranus*)

Forest management never been an issue or challenge faced Socotra before local people always lived in harmony with nature and there traditions always considered the sustainable manners when it deals with natural resources. However, in light of rapid changes happened to Socotra in the last decade, it start to become an issue local people is pastoralized people and never considered that nature is something out of their daily life style, therefore, they never think of forest management as important knowledge need to be developed to handle

these new changes. Therefore, there is a need to study this traditional knowledge a developed to be able to mitigate with these new changes.

Lately in light of the absence of Yemeni government upon the political changes leads to un responsible actions from some people mainly those are not from Socotra originally or whose living outside Socotra to take unsustainable activities for their profit or develop investment.

Charcoal workshop

Established in 2012 by Socotri investor lives in UAE. It is located in north coast of Socotra near Hadibou, it is located within the development area (zone) which means out of the World Heritage boundaries around 500-700 m east of Dsetmowa village.

There are 6 Charcoal burning holes. They produced around 5300 bag, each bag weight around 50 Kg total production is 265,000 Kg/year. Then it exported or shipped by sea to UAE, these statistics for 2014 only.



Picture 4 Charcoal workshop in Socotra



